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From: CN=Bill Dunbar/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US
Sent: Fri 4/8/2011 3:38:19 AM
Subject: Fw: Region 10 News: March Edition
<http://www.epa.gov/narel/radnet/>
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Nicely done!

----- Original Message -----

From: Dennis McLerran
Sent: 04/07/2011 08:04 PM PDT
Subject: Region 10 News: March Edition

EPA Region 10 News: March Edition
Washington Watch: Dispatches from D.C.

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- v EPA warns "Children Act Fast...So Do Poisons"
- v EPA first ever mercury and air toxics standards for power plants

Region 10 Headlines

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Regional Administrator Dennis McLerran's Minutes:
EPA, One Year In

It's hard to believe I've been at EPA for a year now - it's been a blur of activity.

The people here at the Region are intelligent, enthusiastic, and extremely dedicated to the Agency's mission – what an honor to work with you all.

As you know getting our work done requires strong relationships with our congressional delegations, tribal leaders, members of the regulated community, and countless others. I've been particularly focused on developing strong personal relationships with the Region's four state environmental directors, and I speak to each of them numerous times a month.

Another highlight has been developing my relationships with the region's tribes. I've learned so much about tribal cultures and perspectives during the Regional Tribal Operations Committee meetings and other discussions with tribal leaders. Our tribal team's dedication to the government-to-government

relationship with tribes has been both impressive and educational. For instance, in our critical role in helping clean the Puget Sound, the Region has worked with the tribes and the state to address both capacity building needs and on-the-ground projects. It's complicated work, but our sensitivity and commitment to tribal perspectives is making a real difference. As a lifelong Washington resident, this is personally very important to me.

One of the highlights of my time here at EPA was my trip to Alaska last summer when I went to the Bristol Bay region with Administrator Lisa Jackson, AA Michelle DePass, and staff from our Alaska Operations office. Seeing Alaskan villages first hand is a powerful experience - once you've seen a honey bucket up close, you'll never forget it.

My trip to Fairbanks this January to work on the Alyeska oil spill might not have been such a weather highlight for me, but it was a great opportunity to see our Emergency Response process in action. I learned a lot more about the challenges faced by the Alaska Pipeline due to reduced flow from diminishing oil production on the North Slope, and it gave me insight into why many Alaskans steadfastly seek new sources of oil supply on the Outer Continental Shelf and in the National Petroleum Reserve.

Much of my travel in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington has been to visit the various cleanup sites in the Region, and I've learned a great deal about our Superfund and RCRA challenges - and successes. I've been closely involved with the FMC site in Pocatello, the Portland Harbor site and the Duwamish cleanup, and like so many long-time EPA people, the site I've spent the most time on is Silver Valley.

I'm always impressed by the technical expertise and community engagement skills of our staff - and it's been rewarding to get to know these complex issues on these sites and be a part of the team working on these challenging processes.

I feel quite privileged to work with you on issues that are so important. Whether it's working on our strategic alignment or on a particular site or issue, each day is fast - paced and exciting, and every day I look forward to the new challenges.

Thank you all for welcoming me to the team here in Region 10 and helping me to learn the issues, culture, and the EPA experience. It's been a great year for me. I'm looking forward to the coming year - and many more to come.

Washington Watch: Dispatches from D.C.

EPA Warns Online Shoppers about Illegal, Harmful Pesticide Sales

On March 21, 2011, EPA announced that it has warned more than 2,800 customers across the United States about risks associated with a banned pesticide in an ant-control product they purchased online through fastpestcontrol.com. The product, Fast Ant Bait, contained mirex, a pesticide that was banned in 1978 because it can cause liver, skin, reproductive and nerve damage.

EPA became aware of the product after the Washington State Department of Health reported that a woman became ill after using it in her home. In response, EPA identified and warned three online companies, 2Checkout.com Inc., CCNow, Inc. and eBay Inc. to cease processing orders for the product that was produced and mailed from China. The three companies immediately ceased processing orders so that consumers can longer purchase the product.

EPA Warns, "Children Act Fast...So Do Poisons"

In ongoing efforts to protect people's health, EPA collaborated with the Poison Prevention Week Council to encourage the public to keep poisonous substances out of the hands of children. In observance of National Poison Prevention Week (March 20-26), EPA recommends that locking up household cleaners, disinfectants, solvents and

other materials is the best way to reduce accidental poisoning among children.

In 2009, the American Association of Poison Control Centers reported that more than half of the 2.4 million poisoning incidents each year involve children younger than six years old. Leading causes of poisonings include cosmetics such as perfume and nail polish, deodorant and soap, household cleaning products and medications.

EPA Proposes First National Standard for Mercury Pollution for Power Plants

In response to a court deadline, EPA recently proposed the first-ever national standards for mercury, arsenic and other toxic air pollution from power plants. The new power plant mercury and air toxics standards – which eliminate 20 years of uncertainty across industry – would require many power plants to install widely available, proven pollution control technologies to cut harmful emissions of mercury, arsenic, chromium, nickel and acid gases, while preventing as many as 17,000 premature deaths and 11,000 heart attacks a year.

The new proposed standards would provide health benefits for children, preventing 120,000 cases of childhood asthma symptoms and about 11,000 fewer cases of acute bronchitis among children each year. The proposed standards would also avert more than 12,000 emergency room visits and hospital admissions and 850,000 fewer days of work missed due to illness.

This rule will provide employment for thousands, by supporting 31,000 short-term construction jobs and 9,000 long-term utility jobs.

Region 10 Headlines

In Memory of Greg Kellogg

May 8, 1951-March 5, 2011

Deputy Director, Alaska Operations, U.S. EPA

Greg Kellogg worked for EPA for over 36 years. He began his EPA career as a clerk in the Human Resources Office in Las Vegas, Nevada, after he received a BS in Environmental Studies from the University of Nevada in 1973. He relocated to Seattle in 1977 and served as a Personnel Management Specialist in Human Resources. Greg rose quickly through the ranks in Human Resources and found himself serving as the Human Resources Officer for EPA Region 10--a position he never really aspired to but was very good at.

Greg wanted to do program work for EPA. In 1987, he left human resources to become the Region's Enforcement Coordinator. Over the next several years he served in a wide variety of EPA Region 10 staff and managerial positions including the Director of the Office of Enforcement and Chief of the NPDES Permits and Compliance Branch. He moved to Alaska on a detail as the Acting Director of the Operations Office. A month into his time as director, the Exxon-Valdez oil spill occurred and he remained to manage EPA's response to the Exxon-Valdez oil spill.

Afterward, he returned to Seattle for a few years. But Alaska beckoned and he returned to Alaska in 1995, where he remained for the rest of his EPA career. For the past decade Greg served as Deputy Director of the Alaska Operations Office. His professional passions included facilitating community-based watershed restoration and preservation efforts and collaborating on public health policy development associated with exposure to contaminants. He represented the EPA on an interagency Alaska effort to develop a statewide contaminant monitoring strategy and most recently worked to coordinate a conference on mercury.

Greg contributed much to EPA over the years, first in human resources and then in a variety of important leadership positions. He had an open door policy and made all who visited the Alaska Operations Office welcome.

He left an indelible mark on the staff in the Alaska Operations Office and was always ready to listen and lend a helping hand.

EPA Statement on Air Monitoring for Radiation from Japanese Power Plants

As the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has said, we do not expect to see radiation at harmful levels reaching the U.S. from damaged Japanese Nuclear Power Plants. RadNet, EPA's nationwide radiation monitoring system, continuously monitors the nation's air and regularly monitors drinking water, milk and precipitation for environmental radiation.

The agency is working with its federal partners and has deployed additional monitors to Hawaii, Alaska, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Region 10 Response Support Corps members have been deployed to manage the monitors in Alaska. In addition, some members have been actively involved in the radiation monitoring from the Region 10 Emergency Operations Center.

The RadNet online searchable database contains historical data of environmental radiation monitoring data from all fifty states and U.S. territories.

Access the database at <http://www.epa.gov/narel/radnet/>.

Many of you have inquired about EPA's role and activities with respect to the situation in Japan. If you should receive inquiries from the press, please have them contact our Public Affairs Director, Marianne Holsman. The Region's Public Environmental Resource Center (PERC) is referring all health-related questions about the incident to Region 10's State Health Departments.

Region 10 Receives National EPA Small Business Awards

Region 10 will be recognized at the EPA Administrator's 22nd Annual Small Business Program Awards ceremony in New Orleans on March 30 where the region will receive two Administrator's Awards:

Collision Repair Campaign Team: Recognized for their innovative approaches and national leadership in achieving environmental results and furthering small business compliance with the Surface Coating NESHAP rule. Award recipients include Ashley Zanolli, Madonna Narvaez, Heather Valdez, Holly Wilson and Carolyn Gangmark.

Pesticide General Permit Team: Recognized for their extensive outreach that helped small businesses and individuals understand the new requirements, allowed them to voice their concerns, and provided them the opportunity to make suggestions to EPA that were incorporated into the final permit when appropriate. Award recipients include Dirk Helder, Katherine Brown, Bella Patheal-Centenera, Margaret Johnson and Misha Vakoc.

Joan Meitl of the Idaho Small Business Development Center will receive the Director's Award for outstanding partnership with EPA in support of small business environmental assistance. Ms. Meitl was nominated by Region 10 staff for her outreach and compliance assistance event coordination in partnership with the Stormwater and Air Toxics teams. Congratulations, Region 10!

National Air Toxics Assessment Released

On March 11 EPA released the 2005 National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA). This is an analytical tool that helps federal, state, and local governments and other users to understand health risks from breathing air pollutants.

Nationally, NATA found that urban areas tend to have higher estimates of cancer and hazard than rural areas. They also have many emissions sources including mobile sources, and large and small industrial sources. Secondary formation (e.g., formaldehyde forming from other emitted pollutants) also tends to occur more in urban areas because of the complex mix of emitted pollutants.

Nationwide, the key pollutants that contribute most to overall cancer risks are formaldehyde and benzene. The key pollutant contributing to most non-cancer risk is acrolein.

Region 10 states are reducing air toxics through various programs like the Diesel Emission Reduction Act grants. Washington and Oregon have active programs to reduce risk from indoor heating by promoting use of certified wood stoves. Idaho used the previous NATA to determine the area with the highest potential risk and to conduct air toxics monitoring in the Treasure Valley (where Boise is located). Idaho has also started a program to permit autobody shops.

UniSea agrees to pay EPA and state of Alaska \$1.9 million in penalties to settle EPCRA, CERCLA and CWA violations

EPA announced on March 9 that UniSea will pay a penalty totaling \$1,909,375.00. UniSea, a seafood processor located in Dutch Harbor, Alaska, violated its Clean Water Act permit numerous times since 2005, including two unauthorized discharges to Dutch Harbor in 2008 totaling more than 18,000 pounds of ammonia. In addition, UniSea failed to report these discharges in a timely manner as required by Section 304 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act and Section 103 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

The injunctive relief requires UniSea to perform a benthic impact survey of the seafloor near UniSea's outfalls and remove part or all of the seafood piles depending on EPA's findings. UniSea must also perform a facility wide Environmental Management System evaluation.

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day – April 28

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day encourages girls and boys across the country to dream without gender limitations and to think imaginatively about their family, work and community lives. This national, public education program connects what children learn at school with the working world.

The Region 10 Human Resources Council is taking this opportunity to invite children of EPA employees to spend some time learning the importance of environmental work. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

It's time to get ready for Earth Month!

Region 10 will participate in an array of green activities throughout April, known as Earth Month.

We encourage all staff to get out and get active in your communities. This is a perfect time for offices and units to spend time together getting your hands dirty, out of the office and, preferably, out in the environment.

Last year, Region 10 employees logged over 1,200 hours of community service in one month. We cleared invasive ivy from parks to make room for native plants, played game show hosts in Westlake Center where passers-by earned prizes for answering environmentally themed questions, worked to restore habitat along the banks of the Duwamish River and much more. Contact your office Earth Month Coordinator for event ideas!

In addition, the Region 10 Science Steering Council is celebrating Earth Month by hosting events all throughout the month. Mark your calendars for the events below:

Stormwater Series

April 6th, 1:30-3pm in 15 Denali/Kenai

A National and Local Perspective on Stormwater Science and Policy

Regional staff and a representative of local constituents will share their perspectives of stormwater science and policy.

April 13th, 2-3:30pm in 15 Denali/Kenai

Stormwater Stories from the Puget Sound Basin -- Past, Present and Future

This second session will involve a panel discussion of stormwater issues in the Northwest/Puget Sound Basin. The group will include representatives from the Region's state and local governments, academia, private industry and local environmental groups.

Jeopardy!

April 21st, 10:30-11:30am or 1:30-2:30pm, in 15 Denali/Kenai-- Join the RSSC for an educational, fun and rewarding (yes, there will be prizes!) couple of rounds of Jeopardy to test your knowledge of several categories related to the environment

Field Trip

Last week of April-- We're working on arranging a field trip to somewhere here locally. One option we're looking into is having Seattle Public Utilities guide us around one of their Green Infrastructure projects in the greater Seattle area. We have a tentative date of Thursday, April 28th, so stay tuned!